

CORONER EMERGENCY VEHICLE STATUTES

EFFECTIVE JUNE 8, 2011

Because House Bill 34 and House Bill 41 were enacted separately, the two bills have been merged as follows.

KRS 189.910 is amended to read as follows:

(1) As used in KRS 189.920 to 189.950, "emergency vehicle" means any vehicle used for emergency purposes by:

(a) The Department of Kentucky State Police;

(b) A public police department;

(c) The Department of Corrections;

(d) A sheriff's office;

(e) A rescue squad;

(f) An emergency management agency if it is a publicly owned vehicle;

(g) An ambulance service or medical first-response provider licensed by the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, for any vehicle used to respond to emergencies or to transport a patient with a critical medical condition;

(h) Any vehicle commandeered by a police officer;

(i) Any vehicle with the emergency lights required under KRS 189.920 used by a paid or volunteer fireman or paid or volunteer ambulance personnel, or a paid or local emergency management director while responding to an emergency or to a location where an emergency vehicle is on emergency call;

(j) An elected coroner granted permission to equip a publicly or privately owned motor vehicle with lights and siren pursuant to KRS 189.920 (10); or

(k) A deputy coroner granted permission to equip a publicly or privately owned motor vehicle with lights and siren pursuant to KRS 189.920 (10); ~~[a fire department; any vehicle used for emergency purposes by the State Police, a public police department, Department of Corrections, or sheriff's office; any vehicle used for emergency purposes by a rescue squad; any publicly owned vehicle used for emergency purposes by an emergency management agency; any vehicle used to respond to emergencies or to transport a patient with a critical medical condition if the vehicle is operated by a Cabinet for Health Services-licensed ambulance provider or medical first-response provider; any vehicle commandeered by a police officer; or any motor vehicle with the emergency lights required under KRS 189.920 used by a paid or volunteer fireman or paid or volunteer ambulance personnel or a paid or volunteer local emergency management director while responding to an emergency or to a location where an emergency vehicle is on emergency call].~~

(2) As used in KRS 189.920 to 189.950, "public safety vehicle" means public utility repair vehicle; wreckers; state, county, or municipal service vehicles and equipment; highway equipment which performs work that requires stopping and standing or moving at slow speeds within the traveled portions of highways; and vehicles which are escorting wide-load or slow-moving trailers or trucks.

KRS 189.920 is amended to read as follows:

(10) An elected coroner may equip a publicly or privately owned motor vehicle, or both with flashing, rotating, or oscillating red and blue lights and a siren meeting the requirements of this section solely for the purpose of responding to a report of the death of a human being subject to the following terms and conditions:

(a) The coroner makes a written request to the legislative body of the county, urban-county, charter county, consolidated local government, or unified local government in which the coroner was elected to equip a publicly or privately owned motor vehicle, or both, with flashing, rotating, or oscillating red and blue lights and a siren meeting the requirements of this section, and that request is approved by the legislative body by ordinance or by court order; (b) The coroner may use the lights and siren only while responding to the scene of the report of a death of a human being and shall not, KRS 189.940 to the contrary

notwithstanding, exceed the posted speed limit; and (c) The permission granted pursuant to this section shall expire upon the coroner leaving office or the legislative body revoking the authorization.

(11) A deputy coroner certified pursuant to KRS Chapter 72 may equip a publicly owned or privately owned motor vehicle, or both, with flashing, rotating, or oscillating red and blue lights and a siren meeting the requirements of this section solely for the purpose of responding to a report of the death of a human being, subject to the following terms and conditions:

(a) The deputy coroner has made a written request to the coroner to equip a publicly owned or privately owned vehicle with flashing, rotating, or oscillating, red and blue lights meeting the requirements of this section and the coroner has approved the request in writing;

(b) The coroner makes a written request to the legislative body of the county, urban-county, charter county, consolidated local government, or unified local government in which the coroner is elected to permit the deputy coroner to equip a publicly owned motor vehicle or privately owned motor vehicle, or both, and that request has been approved by the legislative body by ordinance or by court order;

(c) The deputy coroner may use the lights and siren only while responding to the scene of the report of the death of a human being and shall not, KRS 189.940 to the contrary notwithstanding, exceed the posted speed limit; and

(d) The permission granted pursuant to this section shall expire upon the coroner leaving office or the legislative body revoking the authorization.

NOTE: Because both House Bill 34 and House Bill 41 amended KRS 189.920, and because the amended language was in conflict, House Bill 34, which was enacted later, it is the controlling language in the following section. As a result, a small portion of House Bill 41 has been eliminated.

KRS 189.920 is amended to read as follows:

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(6) (a) If authorized by the legislative body of a county, urban-county, charter county, consolidated local government, or unified local government;

1. All publicly owned county jail and regional jail vehicles used as emergency vehicles may be equipped with one (1) or more flashing, rotating, or oscillating blue lights, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the vehicle; and

2. An elected jailer or the chief administrator of a county or regional jail not managed by an elected jailer may equip one (1) personally owned vehicle with one (1) or more flashing, rotating, or oscillating blue lights, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the vehicle.

(b) Publicly owned county jail or regional jail vehicles shall not be equipped with or use a siren, whistle, or bell.

(c) The equipment prescribed by this subsection shall be in addition to any other equipment required by the motor vehicle laws.

(Remaining sections renumbered appropriately)

KRS 189.940 is amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as provided in KRS 189.920, the speed limitations set forth in the Kentucky Revised Statutes do not apply to emergency vehicles:

(a) When responding to emergency calls; or

(b) To police vehicles when in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law; or

(c) To ambulances when transporting a patient to medical care facilities; and

(d) The driver thereof is giving the warning required by subsection (5)(a) and (b) of this section.

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